GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:119
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ADVISORY BOARD
KAMAL NATH;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and functions of the National Security Council and its Advisory Board alongwith their terms of reference separately;

(b) whether the Board has recommended an increase in country's defence budget;

(c) if so, the extent of increase recommended and accepted;

(d) the number of meetings held by the Council and the Board since their inception;

(e) the broad outlines of the suggestions made therein separately; and

(f) the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 FOR 2.3.2000.

The National Security Council was formally set up on April 16, 1999.It consists of the Prime Minister as the Chairman and Ministers of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Finance and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as its Members.

2. The National Security Council advises the Government on external security environment and threat scenario; security threats involving atomic energy, space and high technology; trends in the world economy and economic security threats in the areas of energy, foreign trade, food, finance and ecology; internal security, including counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence; patterns of alienation emerging in the country, especially those with a social, communal or regional dimension; security threats posed by trans-border crimes such as smuggling and traffic in arms, drugs and narcotics; and co-ordination in intelligence collection and tasking of intelligence agencies so as to ensure that intelligence is focussed on areas of concern for the nation.

3. The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) consists of a Convenor and other persons of eminence outside the Government with expertise in the fields of foreign affairs, external security, defence and Armed Forces, strategic analysis, economics, science and technology, internal security, and related areas. The Board advises the Council on such issues relating to national security that may be referred to it by the Council.

4. The Members of the National Security Advisory Board interacted with the Prime Minister in a meeting held on 8.6.1999 at which members of the National Security Council and the Strategic Policy Group were also present.The NSAB had thirteen plenary sessions and its subgroups held nearly eighty meetings. In addition, the NSAB interacted with a number of experts in separate meetings.Two documents relating to a Draft Paper for India's nuclear Doctrine and a Strategic Defence Review were produced by the NSAB.

5. The National Security Council and its sub-structures provide an effective channel for integrated thinking and coordinated application of political, military, diplomatic, scientific and technological resources of the State to protect and promote national security goals and objectives. As part of the Strategic Defence Review, the NSAB also recognised the necessity of enhancing the defence expenditure while keeping it at a level which the economy can sustain.

6. The inputs generated through the NSC and its sub-structures as a result of inter-Ministerial coordination and integration of views from both within the Government and experts outside the Government are taken into account while formulating National security policies and making budgetary allocations for Defence by the Government.